

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As we enter into a new year, it's natural for us to think back over the events of the previous year. As another year comes to an end, we remember the good things that have happened to us over the past 12 months, and we remember the bad things that have happened to us in the past 12 months. And as we process the previous year, one of the things that we are doing, whether we realize it or not, is making decisions about where we will place our trust in the new year. And we do this because our tendency is to want to avoid suffering as much as we possibly can.

Unfortunately, we know that we live in a world, where suffering will always be a part of our lives. No matter how well we plan ahead. No matter how careful we are about where we place our trust. Simply because we live in a fallen world, we can count on some level of suffering in our lives every year.

The Apostle Paul knew what it meant to suffer and to continue placing his trust in his God. He wrote a number of his letters from prison, and 2 Timothy is one of his final letters that he wrote. As we enter into a New Year, I want to look at two lessons that we can learn from the resurrection that will encourage us during times of suffering. 2 Timothy 2:8 says, *"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel."*

The first thing that we need to remember when we face suffering is this: If Jesus was raised from the dead, we can be sure that we will be raised with him. God was faithful to His promise when He raised His Son, and we can count on Him to be faithful to His

promises to us as well. Most of us will never be asked to choose between our lives and faithfulness to Christ. But if that time comes, we can choose faithfulness to Christ, because we know that this earthly life is not all there is.

1 Corinthians 15:19-22 says, *"If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."* When we come face to face with suffering, we have this to remember. God is faithful to keep all of His promises to us, including our own resurrection from the dead.

And the second thing that we need to remember when we face suffering is this: that Jesus is now in heaven ruling over all things. For Timothy, that meant that Jesus was the one who was really in charge of the universe, not Nero and not those opposing him like it sometimes seemed. For us, that means that Jesus is in charge of the universe, not the government, not the cultures of this world, and not those opposing the truths of scripture.

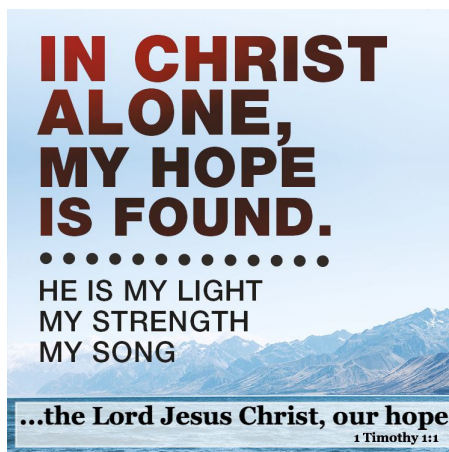
When we watch the news. When we remember friends who have walked away from Christ. When we watch relationships crumbling. When our Christian institutions struggle. It's easy to doubt that Jesus is really in control. It's easy to wonder, how can this be part of His plan.

So Paul reminds us that we serve a risen Lord. Who is in heaven? Who is ruling over all things? Like the hymn says, *"..though the wrong is oft so strong, He is the ruler yet."* We need to remember this. We especially need to remember when we're suffering or facing persecution.

Sin has entered our Father's world, but this is still His world. And Jesus won't be satisfied until earth and heaven are one. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 says, *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is being wasted away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."*

When Paul says to remember Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, he's not reminding us of some small thing. Our familiarity with this truth might make it seem small some times, but it's not. Jesus Christ risen from the dead is our great hope and surety in this life and the next, and it is well worth remembering daily. Paul offers us encouragement and comfort in our suffering, by reminding us of Jesus' death for us and of His resurrection.

Grace and Peace,
Jeff





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Holiday: New Year's Day B-day: Ella Burke Huizinga	2 B-day: Jonathan Cannon	3 Anniv: Billy & Ruth Symon	4 B-day: Carolyn Tipton
5 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Congregational Meeting Nursery: Ruth Symon	6 B-day: Kristy Keasler Atkins	7	8 Dinner: 5:30pm Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club: 6:15pm Choir Practice: 7pm B-day: Isaac Cannon	9	10	11 Warrior WM Annual Meeting: 9:00 am
12 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Amanda Bryant Diaconate Meeting: 8am Installation of New Deacons Communion	13	14 WM AM Circle: 9:30am WM Lunch Bunch: 11:15am WM Council Meeting: 4:30pm WM PM Circle: 7pm	15	16	17	18 B-day: Edith Gill
19 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Allison Ward Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting: 4:30pm	20 Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Joy Mackin HOP: 2pm	27	28 B-day: Will Huizinga B-day: Ozzy Resto	29	30	31 B-day: Hettie Wright	

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Deacons of the Month: Stephen Cannon and TJ Keasler.

Nursery Workers: Please arrive in the nursery by 10:30 am.

Food Ministry Leader of the Month: Eloise Harris.

Wednesday Night Gatherings: This weekly event resumes on January 8th.

- Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE: sign up for dinner each week by Monday to ensure there will be enough food for all. Dinners are \$6.50 each or \$15.00 per family.
- Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids and Catechism Club, 6:15 pm.
- Choir Practice, 7:00 pm.

January 5:

- Congregational Meeting, to be held immediately following the worship service. This meeting will be to vote on the 2020-2022 class of Deacons. The candidates are David Coddington and Mike Cork.

January 11:

- Warrior Presbytery Women’s Ministry Annual Meeting, 9:00 am, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa. Continental breakfast, lunch and childcare is included. See page 4 for the event flyer.

January 12:

- Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am.
- Installation of New Deacons.
- Communion.

January 14, Women’s Ministry Events:

- Morning Circle Study, 9:30 am.
- Lunch Bunch, 11:15 am at Mr. G’s.
- Council Meeting, 4:30 pm.
- Evening Circle Study, 7:00 pm.
- Both Morning and Evening Circle study groups will begin studying “True Community” by Jerry Bridges.

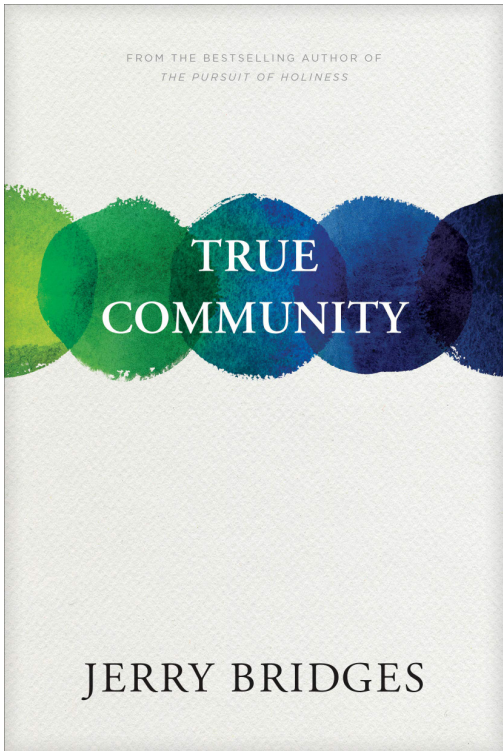
January 19:

- Fellowship Luncheon/Potluck, to be held immediately following the worship service. Luncheon Team: Allison Ward, Andrea Ward. Please sign up if you can help this month on the Luncheon Team.
- Session Meeting, 4:30 pm.

January 26:

- HOP Meeting, 2:00 pm. Hooked on Prayer is prayer ministry that gives shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill. If you have the heart to pray for the individuals on the HOP list, please join this prayer group. Contact Joy Mackin, Joyce Huizinga or Eloise Harris for more information.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO
SERVE FOR THE NURSERY
OR FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON,
PLEASE MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS TO
ENSURE THERE IS
ADEQUATE COVERAGE.**

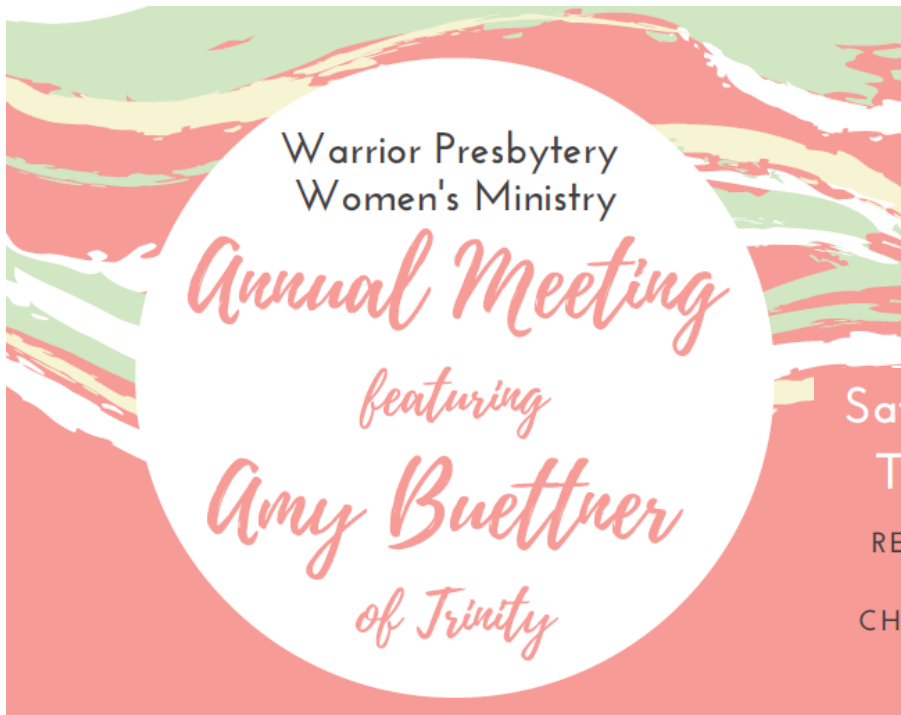


**New Women’s Circle Study Book:
“True Community” by Jerry Bridges**

Beginning January 14th the Women’s Ministry Morning and Evening Circle study groups will start a new book. In *True Community*, Bridges guides you through what biblical community is supposed to look like and its implications for today’s church. Books are available on Amazon for \$12.23 each. Please contact Ann in the church office to order a book.

<u>2019</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,802.00	\$ 86,884.44
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 10,827.00</u>	<u>\$ 105,491.29</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (3,025.00)	\$ (18,606.85)
<u>2018</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>2018 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,571.50	\$ 94,862.52
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 9,139.33</u>	<u>\$ 91,963.76</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (1,567.83)	\$ 2,898.76

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



We learn.
We grow.
Together.

Saturday, January 11 | 9:30am
Trinity Presbyterian Church

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST 9:00-9:30
CHILDCARE PROVIDED | PLEASE RSVP
LUNCH INCLUDED

RSVP by January 3 to Dale Glover
dale_glover@bellsouth.net or 205-248-0489



2020 Committees

There are THREE committees that need your help in 2020: the Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Teams, the Monthly Food Ministry Coordinators, and help with the setup/clean up at our weekly Wednesday night dinners. There is a new on-line sign up method, and if you need help getting signed up, please contact Vickie Cannon (334-324-9071) or Ann Resto in the church office.

- Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Teams:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A5A629A46-fellowship>
- Monthly Food Ministry Coordinator:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A5A629A46-meal>
- Wednesday Dinner Help:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A5A629A46-wednesday>

Thank you to all who have already signed up.



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

Please Pray for our Faith Promise Missionaries

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Nineveh
General Support	Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Sewing Project	Isaiah 55 — Reynosa, Mexico

Hooked On Prayer (HOP):

Allinder, Ike	Harvey, John	Reeves, Bob
Allinder, Kate	Hayes, Betsy	Reynolds, Christy
Bazuin, Caiden	Hocker, Jeannie	Sakon, Ethan
Beeler, Peggy	Hogg, Ian	Sall, Terry
Belcher, Samuel	Hoggle, Judy	Sharp, Chris
Boggs, Ben	Holman, Joann	Sims, Anna Katherine
Brantley, Maggie	Hooks, Chesnee	Sims, Sarah
Brooker, Chrissy	Husbands, Jennie	Stemple, Nita
Brooker, Jan	Hux, Karen	Stephens, Kay
Bryant, Jessica	Ivy, Kendall	Stephens, Ronnie
Bules, Jaimee	Jennifer (Missionary)	Taylor, Marie
Busby, Rhae	Jowers, Walter	TenHaaf, WM
Coker, Jean	Lane, Barbara	Thornton, Alaina
Collins, Brandon	Leascher, Chad	VanderMolen, Popko
Cook, Patricia	Leascher, Jim	West, Beth
Copeland, Roy	Lessman, Linus	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Cross, Margaret	Lewis, Kathy	Womble, Caleb
Crispin, Michelle	Ligon, Brandon	Wright, Hettie
Curry, Walter	Lockett, Joanne	
Daughtery, Jody	McCraw, Beverly	
Davidson, Karen	McIntier, Jodie	
Duncan, Conner	Miller, Tommie	
Dunning, Norbourne	Mills, Angel	
Dyer, Doug	Morgan, Laura	
Eshee, Judy	Pendegrass, Lois	
Finley, Betty	Pickerill, Paula	
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Plummer, Kaegan	

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Jody Daugherty
 Luke (Jonah's son)
 Kaleigh Craig
 Scott Kirkpatrick
 Heather Wilson
 Maggie Brantley
 Kendall Ivy

Illness:

Ian Hogg
 Laura Morgan
 Neal Bules
 David Headley
 Allen Hammond

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
 Sarah Elizabeth Hart
 Frank Ramey
 Viola Cook
 William R. Horton
 Baby Oliver Sullivan
 Francis Mahaffey
 The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
 Sam Brasfield
 Steven Mackin
 Victor Resto
 Josh Allums
 Joseph Wilson
 Josh Tyson
 Blake Ivy
 Grey Tripp

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Huizinga
 Courtney Coddington
 Amanda Bryant
 Katie Gill

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

